

Applicants gratefully appreciate the courtesies extended to Applicants' representative during the December 10 personal interview. The substance of the interview is incorporated into the above amendments and following remarks.

I. Claims Define Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action rejects claims 1-18 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,756,590 under Forrest et al. ("Forrest"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Forrest does not disclose a mounting member entirely made of material having a property of transmitting light, as claimed in claims 1, 4, 17 and 18.

Forrest does disclose a mounting member in which an optical fiber is inserted. However, the entire mounting member of Forrest does not transmit light.

The claimed feature of the mounting member entirely made of material having a property of transmitting light is supported in the specification beginning at least at page 8, line 22 as the glass mounting substrate 10.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4, 17 and 18 are distinguishable over the applied art. The remaining claims, which depend from claims 1, 4, 17 and 18, are likewise distinguishable over the applied art for at least the reasons discussed as well as for the additional features they recite. Withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is respectfully requested.

II. Conclusion

It is respectfully submitted that this Application is in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Appendix

Date: December 19, 2001

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